

Murdering Ministers

Issue #44

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STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine of postal DIPLOMACY published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone is (805) 834-8409. MM is published monthly and is available at the rate of \$5.50/12 issues.

As most of you realize, I have since its inception tried to keep MM running on three week deadlines. There have been several times when we have run on a 4 week deadline, however. The usual policy in setting the next deadline has been to figure the third Friday after the time you have received your copy of MM. So, if MM was ready to go into the mail on Tuesday, the 2nd, for example, then the deadline for the next issue would've been the 20th. Now for the change: I am going to switch to four week deadlines. There are many reasons for this. A big reason is the simple fact that when we have set longer deadlines, the number of NMRs has diminished. ~~There~~ is also the consideration that it will be easier on me to put a bit more time into the quality of the zine with an extra week. So more quality combined with fewer NMRs should equal a better zine to house your games. What do you think? Anyone care to share an opinion in the RRR?

BLACK FROG, North America's Number One zine in the 81 Leeder Poll has folded. This a sad event for those who received and enjoyed BF. Jack has decided to fold and all but drop out of the postal DIPLOMACY Hobby due directly to the problems caused by the "feud" with Bruce Linsey, in my opinion. It's unfortunate that once again the only consequence of a feud is a negative result for the vast majority of hobby members. In DOT HAPPY #12 Allen Wells writes bout BF: "In the time that BLACK FROG graced my mailbox, it was certainly one of the most unique and usually enjoyable zines that I received. In its peak, it was undoubtedly without peer. I looked forward to seeing the next BF arrive, and I usually didn't have long to wait. It's first place showing in the Leeder Poll was no surprise to me. . . If anyone has lost, it has been the hobby." Jack hasn't completely severed his contacts with DIP though as he is playing in 80KZ still and maybe a few others too. I hope that in time, Jack returns to his previous level of involvement in postal DIPLOMACY. I won't hold my breath waiting for it to happen, but it would be most welcome.

There isn't that much to report on at this time, so I think I'll wind this up and get you right into the games. So turn the page and see how many knives you can discover lodged in your back!

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"It oft falls out,
To have what we would have, we speak
not what we mean."

MEASURE FOR MEASURE II, iv, 118.

"Praising what is lost makes the remembrance dear.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL V, iii, 19

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Kathy Byrne))

Dear Ron,

I can't thank you enough for considering me to be among the world's finest -- Nixon and Pearson. This honor is one which I really don't deserve, not without thanking you for being the unselfish person you are and allowing Al and I to take all the credit for your expertise.

After Al won the Nixon in '81, I asked him how he accomplished it and how I could ever hope to be as well prepared for a dip game as he was. Al then told me about the "Ron Brown White Lies Are For Beginners" course. He said your course had changed his life, especially in regards to Dip. He told me the only problem was that you would only tutor one player a year as you didn't want too many people learning all your tricks. So, I now must thank Al for sponsoring me, and I must really thank you, for passing along your very own techniques on how to lie with a straight face or a ball point pen. It really is a shame that you must limit this wonderful course to one player a year, but I can certainly understand why. This year I would like to ask you if Scott Hanson could have the honor of your instruction as he always is the bridesmaid but never the bride -- he sponsored the Nixon winner two years in a row. Certainly he must have some insight into the basics of the game -- imagine what you could do for him. I will ask you to please not waste your time with Woody as nothing could help him, and he'd give us Nixon award winners a bad name.

Well, Ron, I just want you to know that I will proudly share my award with you, because without your great instructions -- I wouldn't be what I am today. Maybe someday people in this hobby will give you the recognition you deserve by renaming the Nixon - to the Ron Brown Award as it should be. Keep up the good work, and thank you for being such a wonderful teacher.

Thanks again coach!

Kathy

PS-

In case you're too modest to print this, I will keep a copy which can always appear in KK, and I am sure that Al Pearson would be honored to print a copy in JAF!

((Thanks for taking the time to write a letter of acceptance for the Nixon Award, Kathy! I am somewhat baffled by your statements though about my teaching you and Pearson how to lie. You must have me confused with Kuszynski! And one other thing. Next time you talk/write to Gruesome, ask him how many games his football team he coached this last year won! Congrats once more to this year's most deserving winner of the Nixon, Queen Kathy! - RB))

((from George Cunningham))

Dear Ron,

I just received the latest issue of MM and it was a good one. I particularly liked the poem, "How You Can Tell When It's Going To Be A Rotten Day." It made me chuckle.

Did you see "60 Minutes" last night? The government created a semi-independent republic (to appease opponents of Apartheid). Anyway, the new government was independent enough so that they could have gambling, liquor, interracial dating -- in short, everything you can't get in the Republic of South Africa. Well, wouldn't you know it, the austere, reverent Dutch Reform Protestant South Africaners just love the place! They expected 2,000 people per day and got 20,000. They even got Frank Sinatra to go there and sing!

((Con'd on next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

I could go into a discussion on "the suppressed desires of white South Africans", but, in the interest of good taste, I think I won't.

The weather down there sounds too good to be true. Who knows? Someday we may be neighbors?

Yours truly,
George

PS-

Don't be surprised if my next set of orders is postmarked, "South Africa"!

((Thanks for sharing your views with me George. I won't comment about the South Africa situation as I must confess to be pretty ignorant on the subject. The weather here, however, I do something about so just let me remind you guys freezing your buns off in the frigid wastes out there somewhere that today it was around 75°F. and sunny all day. It will probably get down as low as 48-50°F. tonight! But there are two sides to every coin. Be glad you're not around during the summers when the temp peaks out around 110°F. Thanks for writing. - RB))

((from Bob Olsen))

Dear Ron,

It seems that I have once again been called upon to answer the unfounded, ill-advised, totally irrational and borderline-nonsensical charge of Gary Coughlan once again. I really don't suppose that there is any point in this -- Gary has shown many times that he is incapable of heeding or learning from the advice of his betters -- but I suppose that, since his letter was thankfully rather short (could it be that even Gary is running out of lies about me?) a few comments are in order.

As for my absence from the St. Louis convention, well, this was regrettable, perhaps, but after having experienced the Coughlan etyle of play in R-3 I just found that there were other, more profitable ways to spend my time that weekend. For instance, while Gary was in St. Louis, acting, in Eric Ozog's memorable phrase, like "a damn fool", I was washing my car. During that same weekend I also accomplished many other things far more interesting than trying to get Gary to see the light, such as watching clouds, dusting the furniture, going to The Store (that's the name of a local discount house, catchy, don't you think?) and writing letters to certain Diplomacy players who, unlike Gary, actually know how to play the game.

I like this part where Gary says, "I would have been ashamed to print more of Olsen's garbage myself -- enort!" Better, I say, that you should print it, than, like Gary, that you should sport it! I mean, there are only two possible interpretations of that sentence, and the most charitable is that Gary has fallen to imitating his pet swine, "Rauterberg".

I think it's ironic that Gary Coughlan, a known tinhorn, should also turn out to have a tin ear. The "gabba gabba hey" quote was of course from the notable rockers, The Ramones, who once memorialized Gary himself with the immortal lines, "One-two-three-four--cretins wanna hop some more! For-five-six-seven--all good cretins go to heaven!"

But even Gary's offenses, which have been so thoroughly exposed in your pages over the last several months, have to take a back seat this time, I'm afraid, for a dangerous new element has entered the picture. I refer of course to the gratuitous and unprovoked attacks, mixed with unseemly gloating, vomited forth by hobby black sheep Brux Linsey in your last issue ((MM#41)). Oh, I don't mind so much that he attacks me and spreads vicious lies about me, but I cannot stand the way he has issued

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

such slurs against Gary! First of all, it's not fair to pick on an unarmed man, such as Gary, unless he has committed some atrocity against you personally, as he has done to me. But beyond this, Linsey, with the insensate bloodlust of a crazed shark, is circling around Gary's sinking ship, precisely because he knows that Gary is already sunk! Not content with his own feuds, Brux now wants to horn in on mine! And this I cannot allow. Each of us has his personal enemy, that one who should be the object of the most strenuous efforts, diplomatic and otherwise. I have Gary Coughlan, but Brux also has his own Great Opponent, with whom he is carrying on a feud which is (if I may say so) disturbing and indeed sickening the entire hobby. In Linsey's feud there is no trace of compassion, of decency, as there is in my kid-glove handling of Gary's ego. No, not for Brux; he doesn't operate that way. Always he must go for the jugular, attempt to destroy his opponent, leaving his quivering ego naked and defenseless. But I will not stand for this sort of treatment being meted out to Gary! Dammit, Bruce, you've got Ted Sommer! Isn't that enough?

Best wishes,

Bob Olsen

((Thanks for writing, Bob. Nothing like two character assassinations for the price of one! Gary, Bruce, would either (both) of you care to respond to any of Bob's allegations? - RB))

THE GAMES!

1981AY WINTER 1903

Austria- No Adj

Germany- No Adj

England- No Adj

Russia- No Adj

France- No Adj

Turkey- Builds F CON, A ANK

1981AY SPRING 1904 ALLIANCES SEEM TO FIRM UP AS RUSSKIES ARE HIT NORTH & SOUTH!

Austria (Lucas): A Tri-SER; F Ven-ADR; A BUD-s-Turkish A Bul-Rum; A VIE-s-A Bud.

England (Hartman): F Mid-WES; F IRI-Mid; F Nth-ENG; F NWY-s-German A Fin-StP; A BEL-Pic.

France (Winger): A BRE-Pic; A Gas-BUR; A PAR-s-A Gas-Bur; A MAR-s-A Gas-Bur; F POR-Mid.

Germany (Albrecht): A Ber-SIL; A MUN-s-A Ber-Sil; F Swe-BAL; F LVN-s-A Fin-StP; A Fin-STP; A Bur-Gas/d/-r-Ruh,OTB.

Russia (Beck)*: A StP-H/a/; A MOS-s-A StP; A Sil-PRU; A GAL-s-A Ser-Bud; A Ser-Bud/d/-F RUM-H.

Turkey (Halls): A Ank-ARM; F Con-BLA; A BUL-Rum; A GRE-s-Austrian A Tri-Ser; F Tun-NAF; F Ion-TUN; F Rom-TYS; F Aeg-ION.

Fall 1904 due April 2, 1982.

*COA - Mary Beck, 5410 West 190th St. #24, Torrance, CA 90503.

1981AY Press-

PARIS-GREAT POWERS: What do you think of a world leader who claims to shift alliances, makes plans to effect this shift, and then doesn't follow through; but, when you only half complete your part of the bargain, gets really pissed off even though it would have been against your own best interest to fully follow up? Paranoia? Insecurity? Diplomacy.

AUSTRIA-LONDON: While you're restructuring your English-French relationship, don't crush me in the middle. I'm closer.

((81AY Press Con'd on next pg.))

"Things sweet to taste prove in digestion
sour."

KING RICHARD II I, 111, 236.

1981AY Press (Con'd)

PARIS-GERMANY: With the emergence of the Kaiser's indignant attitude toward the French People and asseming disregard for the basic human rights of both the French and Russian populace, the French Emeror has no option other than to declare a state of taunting must exist between our nations. The Emperor reminds the Kaiser, and the other Great Powers, that the French military has never ventured into another sovereign's domain; a condition which may be subject to change soon. In this regard, all initial violence directed at the German realm will be verbal. So, to you kraut-faced persons and your allies, we wave our private parts in your general direction. We allow your mother to sleep with Leon Sphinx. We announce to the world that your aroma is like that of a Serval cat. Take that! Now shape up or you'll get more taunting.

BUDAPEST-WORLD: The Emperor is beside himself with joy. After many attempts at communication with the Italian leadership, he finally received an Italian missivs in the Fall '03 prsss. In case you missed it, it said "Doóóóóó! Deset by bad X blarney!" Had ws only known the Italian was Irish we would have taken another tact. Steve - were you Italy all along?

* * * * *

1980KZ SUMMER 1906 Frsnch F Ion-r-TUN
 1980KZ FALL 1906 DRAWS FAIL AS TURKS MASSACRE A GERMAN ARMY AND GAIN THREE SUPPLY CENTERS!
 Austria (Goodrich): F Adr-Tri/a/.
 England (Sampson): NMR! F IRI, F NPH, A LON, A NWY, F STP(nc) - all Hold.
 France (Speridakos): F SPA(sc)-H; F Eng-DRE; A TUS-Ven; F TUN-s-F Tys; F TYS-H.
 Germany (Stéphens): A Bur-PAR; A BEL-H; F DEN-Swe; F DAL-Sws; A LVN-s-A War;
 A WAR-H; A Tya-PIE; A MUN-Tya; A Tri-s-A Vie/a/; A Vie-s-A Tri/d/-
 r-Boh,OTB.
 Italy (Hugh): A ROM-s-F Nap; F NAP-s-A Rom; A VEN-Tya; A GAS-Spa.
 Turkey (Masters): A Ser-TRI; F ALB-s-A Ser-Tri; A Gal-VIE; A BUD-s-A Gal-Vie;
 F Ion-ADR; F APU-s-F Ion-Adr; F Aeg-ION; A UKR-s-A Mos; A MOS-s-A Ukr.

1980KZ Winter 1906 AND Spring '06 due April 2, 1982.

*Would Ron Kelly, 6038 Richmond Hwy #314, Alexandria, VA 22303 please standby for Eng?

1980KZ 1906 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Y	(0) OUT
England- Homs, StP, Nwy	(5) 0
France- Y , Dre, Spa, Por, Tun	(4) -1
Germany- Home, Den, Hol, Del, War, Swe, Y , Y , Y , PAR	(9) 0 (unless A Vie-r-OTB then +1)
Italy- Rom, Nap, Ven, Mar	(4) 0
Turksy- Home, Dul, Rum, Sev, Mos, Gre, Ser, DUD, TRI, VIE	(12)+3

1980KZ Press-

ITALY-GERMANY: Are you pounding on my door again? Look what happened to France for trying to compromise an old man. Beware it will happen to you!!

ITALY-TURKEY: Dear Jack, . . . Are you still looking out for my safety or are you planning another coups?? Be a good boy and follow your mother's instructions carefully. They ars: Bs truthful, be honest, and be a good boy for a change of pace write some appropriate orders. Just like the ones we've discussed -- ya know??

* * * * *

"Conscience is but a word that cowards
 use,

Devis'd at first to keep ths strong in
 awe."

"A littls pot and soon hot."

RICHARD III V, 111, 310.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW IV, 1, 6.

1981D FALL 1906 MANY BATTLES RAGE AND PLENTY OF MOTION BUT 'THE CRAZY TURK' ONLY ONE TO GROW!

England (Arnawoodian): A StP-LVN; A Nwy-STP; F NTH-H(but eyes Den); A WAL-Bre; F ENG-c-A Wal-Bre; F Mid-WES; F SPA(sc)-s-F Mid-Wes; F POR-s-F Spa(sc); F Wes-TUN.
 France (Kelly): A Pic-BRE; A PAR-s-A Pic-Bre; A Bur-Mun/NSU/.
 Germany (Langley): A DUR-Mar; A Del-PIC; A Mun-TYA; A BOH-s-A Mun-Tya; A Vie-s-A Mun-Tya/d/-r-Gal,OTB; A Sil-WAR; A UKR-s-A Sil-War.
 Italy (Filbeck): A Tya-Boh/d/-r-Ven,Trl,OTB; A Tri-VIE; A BUD-s-A Tri-Vie; A Tus-PIE; F LYO-Mar; A Mar-GAS; F Wes-Spa(sc)/d/-r-Tys, Naf,OTB; F GRE-Aeg.
 Turkey (Ethington): F AEG-H; F EAS-s-Italian F Gre-Aeg; A Ank-SEV; F BLA-c-A Ank-Ssv; F RUM-s-A Ank-Sev; A MOS-War.

Winter 1906 AND Spring 1907 due April 2, 1982.

1981D 1906 Supply Center Chart

England- Homs,Nwy,StP,Swe,Prf,For,Spa,TUN.....	(9)	0	
France- Par,Tya,BRE.....	(2)	0	
Germany- Home,Den,Hol,Del,War.....	(7)	0	
Italy- Home,Trl,Vie,Bud,Ser,Gre,Mar.....	(9)	0	((Oops! Forgot: Russia- Rm.....(0) out))
Turkey- Homs,Bul,Sev,Mos,RUM.....	(7)+1		

1981D Press-

SWITZERLAND: Analysts note the surprising riss of Turkish fortunes. The German forces, once feareds throughout ths continent of Europe, are playing a supporting role to the English. The Pope is barely holding his own after promising early growth.
 ITALY-ENGLAND: I don't care how stupid Germany says you are, I think you are OK!
 GERMANY-THE MAD TURK: Isn't this fun. You get both the builds you wanted before losing anything. In fact, if ths Pope will keep on letting you take his dots, you may stay as big as you are now.

1980IX WINTER 1906

England- Builds F LPL

France- No Adj

Germany- A Kie-r-BER,Disbands A-Ber

Italy- Builds F NAP

Russia- A Gre-r-OTB,Builds F STP(sc)

1980IX SPRING 1907 I/R DRAW PROPOSED AS SIDES ARE CHOSEN!

England (Schiwautz): F MID-Wes; F SPA(sc)-Mar; F Lpl-CLY; A EUI-s-F Lpl-Cly; F HEL-s-French A Kie-Den; F HOL-Nth.

France (McCloud): F NAT-Mid; A Bur-GAS; A Pic-BUR; F Nth-SKA; A Kie-DEN; A Ruh-KIE.

Germany (Heinowski): F BAL-Bot; A Mun-BER.

Italy (Psarson): A PIE-Mar; F LYO-Spa(sc); F WES-Mid; F Nap-TYS; A Ser-TRI;

A TYA-s-A Ser-TRI; A GRE-Ser; F BUL(sc)-Con; F SMY-Con.

Russia (Cunningham): F CON-s-A Ank; A ANK-s-F Con; A RUM-Ser; A SIL-s-German A Muh/OTM/; A Vie-BOH; A Bud-VIE; A Lyn-PRU; F STP(sc)-Bot; A SWE-Den; A NWY-H; F NWG-Nth.

Fall 1907 due April 2, 1982. There is a proposal for an I/R draw. 'NVR'='yss' vote, must be unanimous to carry, please vote with your next orders.

1980IX Press-

GERMANY: The dwindling Rspublc of Germany this time declines waiting for Russian aid, better an end to this horror.

GERMANY-FRANCE: Three phone calls in one day deserves something.

RUSSIA-GM: Let it be noted that I resent Pearson's insinuation that I might not honor my treaties. As anyone who knows me knows, I am an honorable player who always (would you believe usually?) keeps his trsaties. A case of the pot calling ths kettle black, if you ask me.

GERMANY-ITALY: The Frankenstein formula has been stolen.

GERMANY-ENGLAND: So was it written . . .

1981AF WINTER 1905

Austria- No Adj

England- No Adj

France- No Adj

1981AF SPRING 1906 TSAR FAILS TO FLUSH BUT TWO HYENAS PROVE SUFFICIENT TO DEVOUR

AUSTRIAN TURD!

Austria (Hugh):

England (Gray):

France (Mainardi):

Italy (Williams):

Russia Wells):

Turkey (Haffey):

A Bud-s-Italian A Tri-Ser/a/.

NMR! F CLY, F NTH, A DEN, F KIE, F BEL, A WAL - all Hold.

F Nwg-DAR; A Ruh-DUR; A Par-BRE; A MUN-TYA; F Por-Mid/a/.

A Ven-TYA; A TRI-s-A Ven-TYA; A Vie-DUD; F Tys-LYO; F Tun-WES;

A Spa-POR; F MID-s-A Spa-Por; A Gas-PAR.

NMR! F NWY, A DER, A GAL, A UKR, A SEV, A ARM, A RUM, A SIL - all H.

A SER-s-Italian A Vie-Bud; A BUL-Rum; F Ank-BLA; A Con-ANK; F SMY-H;

F GRE-H.

Fall 1906 due April 2, 1982.

*Would Keith Mercer, R.D.#6, Old Ash Rd., Mercer, PA 16137 please standby for England?

**Would Steve Hartman, 965 Myrtle St., San Jose CA 95126 please standby for Russia?

1981AF Press-

AUSTRIA-WORLD:

Have you ever felt like a flea eitting on a turd in the middle of an open toilet with three starving hyenas awaiting to devour you? They're all around the basin snapping at one another's throats -- all trying to gain the only living morsel for themselves! I wonder, if I'd throw them my arm or maybe my leg, if they would lustfully snap at the possibility of a small tid-bit. I'm just awaiting the firing-squad commander's order to fire so all three of them jump at me at once, mouth open for the kill, then I'll commit suicide by jumping into the icy waters and you can just bet what everyone of them will be eating!

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA:

Please don't flush it! I can still help you??!

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1981AB WINTER 1904

England- Builds F LON

France- NRR! F Mid-r-OTD

Italy- No Adj

1981AB SPRING 1905

NEW POPE ABANDONS TRIESTE IN FACE OF SWARMING RUSSKIES! ENGLISH MONARCH OFFERS TO TAKE THE REINS AND RULE EUROPE!!

England (Fleming):

France (Sampson):

Italy (Lucas):

Russia (Heinowski):

Turkey (Arnawoodian):

F Mid-BRE; F ENG-s-F Mid-Dre; F Lon-NTH; F Iri-MID; F DEN-s-

A Kie; A KIE-s-F Hol; F Hol-s-A Kie.

NMR! F Dre-H/d/-r-Pic, Gas, OTD; A MAR, A BUR, A RUH, A BEL - all H.

A Tri-WEN; F NAP-Ion; F TUN-s-F Nap-Ion; F ION-Aeg; A ALB-Gre;

A SER-Bul.

A Bud-TRI; A TYA-s-A Bud-Tri; A VIE-s-A Bud-Tri; A Gal-DUD;

A Mun-DER; A War-SIL; A StP-FIN; X F Swe-BAL; A SEV-Rum; F Rum-BLA;

F ANK-Con.

A BUL-Rum; A GRE-s-A Bul-Rum/imp/; F TYS-Ion; F AEG-Con.

Fall 1905 due April 2, 1982. There is a call for a concession to England (see press).

Must be unanimous to carry, 'NVR'-'yes' vote, please vote with your next orders.

*Would Dan Gorham, 1365 Edgecliffe Apt.3, Los Angeles, CA 90026 please standby for France?

1981AB Press-

RUSSIA-ENGLAND:

RUSSIA-F/I:

ITALY-WORLD:

RUSSIA-TURKEY:

RUSSIA-GM:

GM-RUSSIA:

Withdrawal is fine, just don't tell anyone I'm really doing this.

Obviously you know your predecessore.

The absence of press in the Fall '04 moves causes me to ask - "Is

anyone out there? Or is this another fake game, Ron? Which one of us is Grassel?

It was either Arm or Rum, if all goes well then all goes well.

Pressless games?

Not any more.

((81AB Press Con'd on pg.9))

Dot's Incredible

presents

"Stantinople-Con Report or Berkeley Brouhaha"

by

Tim Winger

Come gather around children and you shall hear of the events in Berkeley February, this year. Stantinople-Con was held in the Ida Sproul Hall Dormitory at University of California, Berkeley on the 13th and 14th of February and was hosted by Don DelGrande publisher of LIFE OF MONTY. This article is, however, not only about that CON but about my interface with and impressions of it. To preface the event, let me relate my morning experiences before getting there. The evening before, I was playing in a dart tournament at the "Prince of Wales Pub" in San Mateo. Every Friday, they have a doubles dart tournament with no entry fee and a case of beer as first prize. The price is right and that's where I am most Friday nights. The only reason to bring this up is that this place features some 50 beers from around the world and it seems on Saturday morning that I tried them all. But, back to the trip to Berkeley. Now Berkeley is only about a half-hour drive from my place in San Bruno -- usually. First, it was raining. It was not your small shower-type rain, but the type that caused the problems in Northern California around the first of the year. Well, I was thinking about the rain and little else on the way over to Berkeley and the next thing I discovered was that I was about to cross the Golden Gate Bridge. Well, that's not the right direction. For those not familiar with our topography, it's rather like intending on driving from Kansas to New York and finding that you are entering Canada. I came out of my daze as the traffic all began to back up just about the last exit prior to the crossing. Come to find out, the nuclear aircraft carrier Enterprise was, at that time, coming into the Bay, under the Golden Gate Bridge; and its arrival had turned the bridge into the world's longest single span suspension parking lot. Well, I was lucky enough to reverse direction in time to escape the major stall and worked my way back to the Oakland Bay Bridge, going east and not north.

Did I mention it was raining? Well, it was, and the wind was gusting pretty heavily across the bridge. Now, east bound on the Bay Bridge is on the lower deck so one would think that the driving would be less hazardous. Well, I can grasp defeat from the jaws of victory as I have proven before. I was driving in the second (from the right) lane in moderately heavy traffic when, noticing that the right lane was empty, decided to change lanes. That was a mistake. I soon found out why that lane was empty. As I began to effect the change, the rear end of my car decided to go its own way. As the car began to spin, I remember thinking, "This is going to be a big one!" In my youth I used to drive sports cars in SCCA events so, as I began to spin, my automatic reaction was to compensate and turn into the spin (that's what you're supposed to do). The next thing I recall was viewing my forward progress through my rearview mirror. I also remember seeing several cars approaching through my front window. Next, the front began to come around to the direction that the rear had chosen and, much to my surprise, I resumed my initial direction without so much as bumping the curb, the bridge, or another car. When I looked down at the speedometer, it said that I was still going 50 MPH. Well, I was more than a little stunned. As I resumed my easternly progress, several cars passed and made gestures in my direction. Some seemed to support my stunt while others seemed to consider it inappropriate on a crowded bridge. I eventually made it to Berkeley where, after finding a parking place, I entered Ida Sproul Hall.

There were Clark Reynolds, Dave Grabar and his friend Chris, Steve Langley, Don DelGrande (of course), Mike somethingorother, and a couple others whose names escape me. When I arrived, there was a game of Cosmic Encounters being played. I opted to join in and found out that it was something called "Chowchilla Cosmic Encounters". X That was because Dave Grabar was playing with his very own "Chowchilla Expansion Set"

Dot's Incredible (Con'd)

with such fascinating characters as the Sniveler and the Interpreter. (The Interpreter can make an interpretation of anything that anyone else says such as, "No, what you meant was that you will give me a planet in your system and quit the game".) I dealt myself some powers and cards but, by the time I finished reading about them on the "Chowchilla Expansion Kit" rule sheet, the game was over and everyone wanted to go eat.

At lunch, I learned that "Chowchilla Cosmic Encounters" was only the tip of the Dave Grabar iceberg. There was "Chowchilla Risk", "Chowchilla Wooden Men and Iron Ships", and a whole line of "Chowchilla" rules for games. Chowchilla, for those of you who don't know, is Dave's place of residence. It's a lot like Modesto but without the glitter.

When we returned, Tim Haffey and a couple of others had showed up and we broke into two games, one of DIPLOMACY and one of KINGMAKER. Five hours later, the DIP game ended with Tim Haffey, Steve Langley, and I declaring a three-way draw. It was because I had to go home so that my wife could go to the ballet with her artsy friends (no hostility here!). During the game, I happened by the KINGMAKER game where I was immediately accused of being Judy Simpson. That's fairly absurd. It seems, however, that she has not been seen by that many of the hobby, so her authenticity is in question. Well, I've seen her and played FTF with her and lost to her but, since she wasn't at the CON, some doubted her. All I can add is that I can't be she as she is much more attractive than I, and has a much more appealing shape. (But that's not too hard to do). Anyway, that was day one at the CON. The next day, after two careful trips across the bridge, saw everyone in a game of Nuclear Holocaust. (Calling it Chowchilla Nuclear Holocaust would be redundant as it was invented and is copyrighted by Dave Grabar). It was my first time ever seeing that game. What a board, it filled an entire ping pong table. It lasted the entire day. The object of this game was simply to have the players agree on any one thing. That took until about 5:30 PM. when we agreed that Dave's friend Chris had more money than anyone else and kind of agreed that he was the winner. He did this with a last masterful stroke against me. He was, among others, Egypt and I was South Africa and USA. While I was busy stealing gold shipments and subverting South American interests, he said he would join me but would have to fly over my South African interests. As he flew over my gold island of St. Helena, I was asked if I wished to fire any of my thirty anti-aircraft batteries at his fifty or so planes. Being a loyal ally, I declined. He then was asked if he wished to bomb the same and responded in the affirmative. Sensing defeat was imminent in that region, I negotiated a sale of all my area assets for \$300,000. It allowed him to net about \$500,000 in additional gold and me to save some face. After that we cleaned up and said our goodbyes and left vowing retaliation at the Sacramento Con in October.

1981AD Prese (Con'd from pg.7)

ENGLAND-WORLD: I'm proposing a concession to England. Pretty shocking, eh? Here's my rationale: I'm the only original player left in the game and the game has been one marked by non-writing on all the original players' parts. Now the rest of you are standby players. If you are interested in keeping the game going vote "no" but if you take a standby position as a service to the original players so the game isn't disrupted by the dropping out of others then I'd urge you to vote "yes". As the only original player left I'm the only one who has a real stake in the game. And with this mass turn-over in players I'd just as soon see the game end and go on to my others. On the other side of the coin, as standby players your real interest in the game is probably rather minimal. I hope an end to it would be agreeable to you also. I'm not proposing this concession because I think my position deserves it at this time, or because I think I'm going to win the game. I'm proposing it so we can get on to other games that mean more to us. I won't be reproposing it, since it is meant as a means to have the game end to everyone's benefit. If you want it to continue, fine, my orders will be there and my letters will continue to be in your mailboxes. But if you'd just as soon have this game out of the way, please vote yee. Thank you.

ENGLAND

by
Dennis Agosta

((This article was first published in COMMANDS #'s 14 & 16, also published by Dennis Agosta, and was published Jan. 6, 1977 - RD.))

England is the safest country to play, but one that can be the most difficult to handle, especially in the first two game years. Being an island, it is difficult to invade since each of its potential early enemies has only one home center nearby in which it is able to build a fleet. But being an island, it is also difficult for England to expand early in the game. This may seem to be a strange statement considering the fact that 27 of the 34 supply centers can be reached by fleets, England's strengths, but then again, 31 supply centers can be reached by armies without any aid from fleets, and 3 of those which can't are England's home centers. Also, an attack with armies usually doesn't take as long to set up and is more easily supported by one's allies' pieces than is an attack with fleets alone.

The major alliance combinations involving England in the opening are England/France, England/Germany, England/France/Germany. I'll discuss England/France first.

England should always try to gain France's cooperation for the game's opening, even if he does not intend to honor the alliance right from the start. The standard procedure is to agree to maintain the English Channel as a neutral zone. While this is advantageous to both countries, it does favor France as the loss of Brest is more devastating to the French than the loss of London is to the English. It also usually commits England to a war with Germany that will greatly depend upon French and/or Russian support, while France retains a wider choice of options. An English fleet in the English Channel forces France to cover Brest; should the English not move to Brest in the next turn, no new French fleets appear where they are needed most. If the situation is reversed and England is faked into moving into London, fleets built in Liverpool and Edinburgh are only slightly less effective than the one that could have appeared in London. In any case, since the English Channel is the first key step to an invasion of England (through the weak spot of Wales), the English player must keep it free of foreign fleets or occupy it himself.

An English-French alliance can be made more secure by an agreement not to build fleets in Brest and London (better for England). This won't prevent a stab necessarily, but it can give the stab victim some warning before it takes place. Later in the game, the building of armies in Brest and London can extend this warning period.

The opening I like to follow, given an England-France alliance is F Lon-Nth, F Edi-Nwg, A Lpl-Yor. Russia is urged to either join the attack on Germany (he probably won't until much later) or at least stay neutral in the conflict. England, of course, guarantees the safety of St. Petersburg and Sweden (pointing out the likelihood that Germany will not allow him to take Sweden in '01) and offering Denmark (not Norway) as a future Russian center. Giving Norway to Russia would weaken England's position since it forms a good springboard for a Russian invasion and also allows Russia to gain and hold on Scandinavia that will be very hard to break. Germany is asked (yes, you do talk to the countries you're going to attack) to move F Kie-Den in S'01 and F Den-Swe in F'01 to keep the Russian at bay (realize the attack on Germany is not revealed until Fall 1901 or Spring 1902.) Germany is also asked to support F Nth-Bel from Ruhr. France should get his army in Paris to Burgundy or Picardy and you should strongly ask his support of army Edinburgh to Belgium. Don't suggest to Germany that he support a move of Edi-Bel; he will probably refuse (if he knows what he's doing) and it might tip your hand too early. If he supports F Nth-Bel, Belgium is your if France doesn't stand you off; if Germany doesn't support the North Sea Move, then Belgium is at worst a stand-off, again if your ally France doesn't mess you up.

ENGLAND (Con'd)

Germany is the main objective, of course, but there are other things to keep in mind. One is your disposition towards Russia; St. Petersburg is a very tempting target for F Nwy in the second game year and beyond, but you must weigh the consequences carefully. If Russia is sending armies against Germany you obviously don't want to antagonize him early in the game; even if he is neutral, his northern fleet can give you problems if he uses it to support Germany. At the other extreme, if Russia has sent his armies south and is having trouble with Austria and Turkey, you'd be a fool not to take St. Petersburg in Spring 1902. For any situation in the middle you must use your judgement based upon the game situation, your letters from the other players, etc. You must also decide what you're going to do after Germany is gone. What you build in '01 and '02 will have a great effect on your ability to stab France if that is what your plan calls for; the more armies you can get to the continent, the stronger your position will be, and the more options you will have. You must also keep an eye on France. If he builds F Bre, alarm bells should start to ring.

The invasion of Germany is one that may take a long time to accomplish; France's first goal is Burgundy and Belgium while England's is Helgoland Bight. From here it's push and shove until the defenses crack. Here is one possible combination: F Lon-Nth, F Edi-Nwg, A Lpl-Yor, F Bre-Mid, A Par-Bur (S by A Mar), A Mun-Ruh, F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, F StP-Bot, and then in the Fall: F Nwg-Nwy, A Yor-Bel (S by A Bur, C by F Nth), A Mar-Spa, F Mid-Por, F Den-Swe, F Bot-Swe, A Kie-Hol, A Ruh-Bel. Builds: A Mar, A Par, A Lon, F Edi, A Mun, A Kie. This opening is not unreasonable and leads to a tough fight. The next step is to surround the German; I'll assume Russia is friendly for now. F Nwy-Ska, F Nth-Hel, (this insures one of them is yours), F Edi-Nth, A Bur-Ruh, (S by A Bel), A Par-Pic, A Mar-Bur, A Spa-Gas, F Bot-Swe, F Den-s-F Bot-Swe (Germany needs friends), A Hol-Bel, (S by A Ruh), A Mun-Bur, A Kie-Hol. The possibilities are many now, for example: A Bel-s-A Bur-Ruh, F Hel-Kie, F Nth-Den (S by F Ska), etc.

Given an English-German alliance, I prefer to open aggressively right from Spring 1901. In the early negotiations, an agreement should be reached with France to keep the English Channel neutral; on the first turn you move F Lon-Eng. If France suspects you and stands you off he may only get one build in 1901; if he doesn't stand you off then you should have him. For example: F Lon-Eng, F Edi-Nth, A Lpl-Yor, F Bre-Eng, A Par-Bur (S by A Mar), A Mun-Ruh, F Kie-Den, A Ber-Mun, F StP-Bot. This is the slow game; France, England, and Germany each get one build in 1901. F Den should stand F Bot out of Sweden (unless Russia is a trusted, active ally) to keep Norway secure for England next game year (assuming there is no army in StP). A Yor convoys to Belgium with German support. F Bre goes to the Mid-Atlantic, A Mar-Spa. Builds are A Kie, F Bre, F Lpl, The English Channel, (if you didn't get there in the fall), Bur, and Pic should now be accessible in 1902: F Lpl-Iri, F Lon-Eng, F Nth-s-F Lon-Eng, A Bel-Pic, A Mun-Bur (S by A Ruh), etc.

The English-German alliance is a fairly safe one for the English player, since the building of German fleets will not be useful in the war against France. The German player can pursue a land war vs. Russia, Austria, & Italy while the English player sends his fleets to the Mediterranean and neither player will interfere with his ally. If England should decide to stab Germany later in the game, he should be in a good position to do so. The German cannot enjoy this advantage since he can't build fleets without alerting his ally to his intentions.

The most powerful alliance on the board is, in my opinion, the English/German/French alliance; it is also the most difficult to set up and maintain since it involves a great deal of risk for the French player, a moderate amount of risk for the German, and very little risk for the English. If such an alliance can be set up, it is best to keep its existence a secret as long as possible so that the French and English fleets can get a stranglehold on the Mediterranean before the Italians and Turkey can react. F Lon-Eng, F Bre-Mid, followed by F Eng-Mid, F Mid-Spa(sc) should give the Italian player fits. Germany is free to send at least one army east in '01 to attack Italy or Russia with Austrian support.

WRAP-UP!

And that brings us once again to the last page of yet another issue. Before I forget to mention it, someone asked about Al Rodriguez. Some of you may have heard he's going to Europe soon. Yep, good old Mr. Rodriguez is on sabbatical this semester. That means he's off work now (has been since the first part of Feb. and doesn't have to go back until Sept.) drawing $\frac{1}{2}$ salary. Not too bad. His first stop will be in Egypt and although I don't know the exact order, he'll be hitting Greece, Italy, Spain, England, and Belgium. Some guys have all the fun! He even mentioned that he might like to get into one game of DIPLOMACY after he has returned. So maybe you haven't heard the last of Al in the postal hobby after all.

Anyone care to comment about the article on England on pgs. 10-11?

Finally, as announced last time, Kathy Byrne has won the 1981 NIXON AWARD. Make sure you read her acceptance speech on pg. 2! So take it easy and don't spill too much blood on the rug at your next FTF game. (You know how mad your wife will be!) Bye!

* ** *** ** *
Personal Notes:

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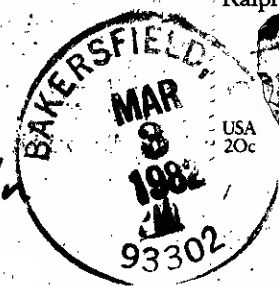
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